

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A process for making a stable colloid for gene transfer comprising
providing a colloid comprising an aqueous phase having suspended therein a DNA complex ~~which consisting~~ consists essentially of DNA ~~complexed with~~ sequestered within cationic lipids or cationic polymers and which has a cationic surface potential, and
converting the cationic surface potential of the DNA complex to a neutral or net anionic surface potential by reacting the cationic lipids or the cationic polymers in the DNA complex with a reagent selected from the group consisting of citraconic anhydride and N-hydroxysuccinimide acetate to reduce, remove or reverse said cationic surface potential.

Claims 2 to 6 (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein said cationic lipids or cationic polymers ~~is~~ are selected from the group consisting of linear polyamines, branched polyamines and polyamines comprising guanidinium groups.

Claims 8 to 10 (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein said complex further comprises a targeting ligand covalently attached to said cationic lipids or cationic polymers.

Claims 12 and 13 (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein said reagent is only reacted with cationic head groups of said cationic lipids or cationic polymers on the surface of said complex.
15. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein said reagent is reacted with cationic head groups of said cationic lipids or cationic polymers on the surface of and in the interior of said complex.

Claims 16 and 17 (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A stable colloid ~~prepared by the process of Claim 1~~ comprising
an aqueous phase, and
a DNA complex which is suspended in said aqueous phase and which has a neutral or net anionic surface potential and which consists essentially of DNA attached ionically to and sequestered within lipids or polymers which are chemically modified reaction products of: (A) a reagent selected from the group consisting of citraconic anhydride and N-hydroxysuccinimide acetate; and (B) cationic lipids or polymers.
19. (Previously presented) A method for gene therapy by delivering in vivo an exogenous therapeutic DNA sequence to a patient in need thereof comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of the stable colloid of claim 18.
20. (Currently amended) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said cationic lipids or cationic polymers ~~is~~ are selected from the group consisting of linear

polyamines, branched polyamines and polyamines comprising guanidinium groups.

21. (Previously presented) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said complex further comprises a targeting ligand covalently attached to said cationic lipids or cationic polymers.
22. (Previously presented) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said reagent is only reacted with cationic head groups of said cationic lipids or cationic polymers on the surface of said complex.
23. (Previously presented) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said reagent is reacted with cationic head groups of said cationic lipids or cationic polymers on the surface of and in the interior of said complex.
24. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 19, wherein said cationic lipids or cationic polymers is are selected from the group consisting of linear polyamines, branched polyamines and polyamines comprising guanidinium groups.
25. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 19, wherein said complex further comprises a targeting ligand covalently attached to said cationic lipids or cationic polymers.
26. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 19, wherein said reagent is only reacted with cationic head groups of said cationic lipids or cationic polymers on the surface of said complex.

27. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 19, wherein said reagent is reacted with cationic head groups of said cationic lipids or cationic polymers on the surface of and in the interior of said complex.
28. (Previously presented) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said cationic lipids contain hydrophobic moieties which are based on one or more acyl chains of various lengths.
29. (Previously presented) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said cationic lipids contain a hydrophobic moiety which is a myristyl chain or a palmityl chain.
30. (Previously presented) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said complex comprises further a targeting ligand which is selected from the group consisting of folate and tumor homing peptides.
31. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 19, wherein said cationic lipids contain hydrophobic moieties which are based on one or more acyl chains of various lengths.
32. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 19, wherein said complex comprises further a targeting ligand which is selected from the group consisting of folate and tumor homing peptides.